

Strode
Eslo River

November 11, 1931.

MEMORANDUM FOR GOVERNOR HUNT, MR. WOOD & MR. PATTEE:

Have just returned from a fifteen hundred mile automobile trip along the Colorado River from Yuma to Utah.

Mr. Porter J. Preston, who has charge of the surveys to ascertain irrigation possibilities in the Colorado Basin outside of California and Mr. Debler, head of the hydraulic division of the Bureau of Reclamation, and myself left Yuma Tuesday morning. We drove through the Castle Dome Plain and Posa Valley to Bouse, Parker and Needles.

Wednesday we examined the land in the vicinity and south of Fort Mohave, driving to Las Vegas where we picked up George Bacon, State Engineer of Utah.

Thursday and Friday we drove over several small projects in Utah, some of which include possible irrigable lands in Arizona. We also examined a possible dam site below the Town of Virgin, and another on the Virgin River below St. George, approximately on the State Line. This latter is the largest storage reservoir, and would be essential to additional development of land in Arizona and Nevada in the vicinity of Littlefield, Mesquite and Bunkerville.

Saturday we were at the Boulder Dam, with a representative of the State Engineer of Nevada, and Sunday an examination was made of some lands and reservoirs on the Muddy River, and the sloping mesa above the river near the Searchlight Ferry.

Monday we went to Rice and through the Chuckwalla Valley of California to Blythe, then to Quartsite and Yuma.

The land in Utah would not be considered very good irrigable land in this State. It is in very small and isolated tracts that will be expensive to develop. Nevertheless, as the additional areas are contiguous to many small areas now irrigated and as it could probably be developed in conjunction with the operation of present agricultural lands, I believe that it will eventually be developed.

There is a little additional irrigation possible in Nevada from the Muddy and Virgin Rivers, if storage is secured, but total acreage will be very small unless that state makes some high pump lifts from the Boulder Dam or Colorado River. There is a possibility of developing some good land in the vicinity of Las Vegas and the valley about thirty miles to the south, and also on the sloping bench land between Searchlight and the Ferry. Some of the latter lands would be covered if the Bull-head Reservoir is constructed. Little Nevada land can be ir-

rigated with a pump lift under five hundred feet. The people are not irrigation minded, and there is not adjacent agricultural land to be enlarged.

An understanding between Utah, Nevada and Arizona in regard to the use of our mutual streams should not be difficult to make.

Mr. Preston's field forces arrived in Yuma last Wednesday. They will establish an office at Wellton to investigate the lower Gila. They will run a tunnel line through above the Laguna Mountains, also an alternate canal route around these mountains to the west and south. They will also investigate the lands on Yuma Mesa beyond the original proposed limit of about 110,000 acres. The enlarged mesa area will approximate 300,000 acres.

Confidentially, without their direct statement, I judge that these representatives of the Reclamation Service consider that it will be a long time before National funds will be available to develop the areas in the six states. I also judge that they are inclined to the viewpoint of our previous Arizona Commission as to the intent of the Swing Johnson Bill for a water division between Arizona and California. This, of course, is not in accord with the contract approved by Secretary Wilbur November 4, which insures about five and a half million acre feet of water for California.

In addition to the Yuma protest against the new All American Canal contract the Palo Verde Valley and some property owners in the Imperial Valley protested on October 22. On previous contracts the Secretary has required not only a majority vote, but a majority of acreage vote. Of course he could waive this requirement in order to get the All American Canal under way. No appropriation has been made for this canal. Probably a hundred thousand dollars will be requested of the coming Congress. This will be needed to prepare detailed plans of the canal structures, etc. Probably no work on the canal can be started in any event before 1933. At present an injunction is restraining the district's acceptance of the contract.

Work on the Boulder Dam is proceeding rapidly. The housing situation has so far advanced that living conditions should be more tolerable next summer. An inspection of the large tunnels shows considerable poor rock, but it seems to be in pockets rather than continuous.

The plans for the spillways are not yet complete. The contractors are clamoring for an opportunity to start on them. They are well ahead of their work schedule.

Ex-Congressman Louis Crampton, who was extremely friendly with the Interior Department, and active in securing the passage of the Swing Johnson Bill, was gently fired because of his inability to get along with the contractor and those desiring to lease government property, etc.

The land in the Gila and in the Posa Valleys in Arizona is much better than anything we saw on this trip in California, Utah or Nevada, with the exception of the Palo Verde Valley proper.

It is quite probable that the construction of the Imperial Dam will destroy the Palo Verde Valley of California, as well as the Cibola Valley in Arizona. The Parker Dam would destroy the Chemehuevis Valley and perhaps injure the Mohave Valley.